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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The antitrust lawsuits against Microsoft have gone on for too long. They are also not very well justified. Microsoft has not only created jobs and wealth for our country, but also has made technological breakthroughs that have revolutionized the IT sector. I do wish that when they come out with new versions of software they would always make it compatible with previous versions, which they didn't do, for instance, with PowerPoint.

Still, it's clear that the settlement seems to only help competitors gain an edge they were not able to gain beforehand. It forced Microsoft to disclose interfaces that are internal to Windows operating system products, and also grant computer makers broad new rights to configure Windows so that non-Microsoft software can be promoted more easily.

It is in the best interests of the American public to finalize the settlement. Our nation cannot afford further litigation so I urge your office to use its influence to try to rein in the nine states that want to drag this case out for even longer. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Carol Morse Sibley